

Patent claims:

1. An online ordering system for food outlets, comprising
 - 5 - at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,
 - in each case a communication connection which can be
10 established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which in each case
 - connects an output device and/or display device at the food outlets to the first computer system.
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2. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the output device and/or display device comprises a fax machine.
- 20 3. The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that an interactive program runs on the first computer system.
4. The online ordering system as claimed in one of
25 the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises at least a second computer system, which is connected to the Internet and can communicate with the first computer system.
- 30 5. The online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the second computer system comprises a fax server.
6. The online ordering system as claimed in one of
35 the preceding claims, characterized in that the program comprises at least one prompted user program and one unprompted user program.

7. A method of operating an online ordering system, in particular of operating the online ordering system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, comprising the following steps

- 5 - display of the start page
- preferably user input of a geographical specification
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified
- 10 geographical area,
- user input in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of
- 15 the items of food offered by the food outlet selected
- user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected
- response of the system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet
- 20 selected.

8. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the transmission of the order takes place on a fax machine

25 at the selected food outlet.

9. The method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps

- 30 - displaying various categories of food
- user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of
- 35 the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

10. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims,

characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- transmitting a message to the orderer on the success/failure of passing on the order to the food outlet.

11. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following steps

- display of price categories of the food outlets
- user input of a specific category of the price categories displayed, and
- response of the system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which fall into the price categories selected.

12. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- user input of a delivery time and storage of the same by the system.

13. A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in one of the preceding method claims, characterized in that it also comprises the following step

- user input of a delivery address and storage of the same by the system.

14. Use of the device as claimed in claims 1 to 6 for carrying out the method as claimed in one of claims 7 to 13.